

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Science & Technology  
Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight

**HEARING CHARTER**

***The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):  
Problems in the Past, Potential for the Future?***

Thursday, March 12, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Chairman Brad Miller of the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science and Technology will convene a hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009, to examine the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR). Last year, the Subcommittee held a hearing and issued a staff report on how the agency came to issue a scientifically flawed formaldehyde health consultation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The flawed report and ATSDR's botched response resulted in tens of thousands of survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita remaining in travel trailers laden with high levels of formaldehyde for more than one year longer than necessary.

This hearing will consist of three panels and eight witnesses, including Dr. Howard Frumkin, Director of ATSDR. It will examine ongoing problems at ATSDR, specific cases where local community members, scientists and physicians are critical of the agency's scientific methods, conclusions and lack of follow-up actions. The hearing will also hear from individuals who have either worked for or with the agency in the past, including the former ATSDR ombudsman, who will provide their insight into the cause of systematic problems at the nation's public health agency and potential remedies.

The hearing will explore why ATSDR has refused to change portions of a health report, described by the EPA as "questionable" and "misleading," regarding asbestos contamination on a beach on Lake Michigan in Chicago. There will be testimony from a well-respected medical expert on a rare type of cancer who says the agency has refused to acknowledge a link between a cancer cluster in Pennsylvania and environmental contamination despite persuasive evidence.

In addition, a British scientist will describe the flawed methods ATSDR used to investigate depleted uranium exposures among residents in Colonie, New York and how he and colleagues succeeded in discovering depleted uranium exposures among 20% of the resident population they tested there. A local resident from Midlothian, Texas, known as the cement capital of the world, will explain how and why he and the local community have lost faith in ATSDR's ability to independently and scientifically investigate the health problems that the town's population, particularly its children and animals, have been suffering from that they believe have been caused by the one billion

pounds of toxic emissions the town's industries have unleashed into the environment since 1990.

**Thursday, March 12, 2009**

**Investigations and Oversight - Hearing**  
***ATSDR: Problems in the Past, Potential for the Future?***

Witnesses:

Panel I

- **Mr. Jeffrey Camplin**, *President, Camplin Environmental Services, Inc.*
- **Dr. Ronald Hoffman**, *Professor, Tisch Cancer Institute, Department of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York*
- **Professor Randall Parrish**, *Head, NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, British Geological Survey*
- **Mr. Salvador Mier**, *Local Resident, Midlothian, Texas, and Former Director of Prevention, Center for Disease Control*

Panel II

- **Dr. Henry S. Cole**, *President, Henry S. Cole & Associates, Inc.*
- **Dr. David Ozonoff**, *Chair Emeritus, Department of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health*
- **Mr. Ronnie Wilson**, *Former Ombudsman, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*

Panel III

**Dr. Howard Frumkin**, *Director, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*

**10:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.**

2318 Rayburn House Office Building (WEBCAST)